

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 28-35 remain pending in this application. New claims 34 and 35 have been added.

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority and safe receipt of the priority document.

35 U.S.C. §101

The Examiner has objected to the use of the phrase "in the air" alleging that it could amount to no more than a person telling another person to update data. However, the previous claims clearly recited that the IC tags transmit a coincidence request in the air or that another element transmits a coincidence request in the air. Therefore, it is submitted that the previous claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §101. Nevertheless, in order to expedite prosecution, the phrase "in the air" has been removed from claim 28. It should be noted that the limitation of IC tags has been removed from claim 28.

35 U.S.C. §112

The claims have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections and rejections under this section. Furthermore, Applicants wish to point out the following.

With respect to the phrase "IC tags", it should be easily evident from the specification that the functionality possessed by these "IC tags" requires that "IC" corresponds to "integrated circuit". Otherwise, if they were merely universal product code tags, they would not be able to function as described. In addition, with respect to claim 33, the "seventh step" (previously "eighth step") follows the fourth step (previously "fifth step") and therefore can occur before the "fifth step" (previously "sixth step"). It is not necessary that the seventh step be subsequent to the fifth step unless specifically recited in the claim. Since the seventh step is recited in a dependent claim, its numerical value is greater than the steps recited in the independent claim, but does not necessarily have to be later in time.

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 28-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koizumi et al (U.S. Patent No. 4,789,986) in view of Donahue et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,835,721). These rejections are traversed as follows.

The present invention is directed to coincidence processing in which after a previously defined event triggers coincidence processing, the group of elements corresponding to the element that triggered the coincidence processing are acquired and are transmitted a coincidence request. Common data is transmitted in response to the coincidence request and a determination is made as to whether the common data should be updated. When required, the common data is updated and if all of the common data are not coincident, coincidence processing is repeated.

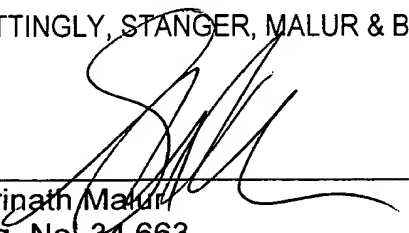
None of the cited references disclose these features of the presently claimed invention. Koizumi et al disclose a data coincidence method between the plurality of devices connected by a common data transmission line. Donahue et al merely disclose data transmission using a wireless network. In Koizumi et al, when information distributed in a plurality of devices are to edited, each device can select correct data from redundant edited data even if the distributed information is duplicated. Therefore, Koizumi et al are directed to a different field of endeavor as the present invention and therefore fail to disclose or suggest the presently claimed features.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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